

# Official Bulletin



# BLAIR

## MAGAZINE

### Blair Society for Genealogical Research

"It is indeed a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors." Plutarch.

Published from the Erie, Pa., Office of the Society, 402 Masonic Temple.

Volume 1.

November 1, 1925. to

Number 1-8

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# THE BLAIR MAGAZINE

Official Bulletin of The

## BLAIR SOCIETY FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Incorporated January 19th, 1925  
Under Pennsylvania Laws.

Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer,

Mrs. Claril Blair Blair

Mantua, Ohio

President, Hon. F. W. Blair,

Girard, Penna.

Archives filed at Erie, Pa., Office.

Genealogical Secretary,

John Elmer Reed, Esq.

Erie, Penna.

Published at Erie, Penna. from the Office of the Society, 402 Masonic Temple.

Volume 1.

November 1, 1925.

Number 1.

"A praise of bygone days." Horace.

### FOREWORD

Many persons in this country, and in other lands, had been corresponding with Mrs. Dr. Eleanor M. Heistand-Moore, of Philadelphia, Pa., giving her, and seeking from her, data concerning many genealogical lines of the Scotch Blairs, and of their related and connected lines. She had accumulated much data without being able to supply essential connecting links and matter for its proper publication. She desired to have her data published as soon as this missing matter could be secured. Then came her death, and the chance that this data might be dissipated.

Some of her correspondents organized an incorporated body for the custody of her papers. They were incorporated at Erie, Pa., under the laws of Pennsylvania, without capital stock, or shares of stock, on January 19, 1925, and a meeting of the incorporators soon followed, which resulted in the adoption of a form of By-Laws—which have been printed for distribution at \$ .25 each—and the following official body: Trustees, Hon. Frederick Wells Blair, Girard, Pa., Dr. George Arthur Reed, Erie, Pa., and John Elmer Reed, Esq., of Erie, Pa.; President, J. E. Reed; Hon. F. W. Blair, 1st V. P.; Maurice R. Blair, Detroit, Mich.; 2nd V. P.; David Jameson, of New Castle, Pa.; 3rd V. P.; Mrs. Claril Blair Blair, Mantua, Ohio, Genealogical Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Effie Blair Wall, of Carthage, Mo., Assistant Genealogical Secretary.

The list of incorporators will be found elsewhere.

Mrs. Moore's papers were presented to the newly organized society by her brother, Mr. Harry B. Gill, of Philadelphia, and they are now being sorted, examined, charted, and from time to time selected portions will be published in this magazine for the use of the members. A few extra copies will be available on terms to be fixed by the trustees.

The corporate name of this society is shown at the head of the first page.

The object of the society is for "the collection, acquisition, arrangement, preservation, publication and other dissemination of genealogical and historical data concerning the Blair Family in its various lines of descent, and its allied and related branches.

Membership is of four kinds:

**LIFE MEMBERS**, who are of Blair lineage. Fee, \$15.00 with no dues. These may vote and hold office.

**ACTIVE MEMBERS**, who are directly related to Blairs. Fee, \$5.00 with annual dues of \$2.00. These may vote and hold office.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**, who may or may not be related to the Blairs, but who have contributed to its work and in consideration thereof have been elected to its membership. They are charged no fee, but these may not vote or hold office.

HONORARY MEMBERS, who are related by blood to the Blairs, and have been elected to its membership in recognition of some signal service which they have rendered to the human race for its betterment and welfare. They are charged no fee, nor annual dues.. They do not vote nor hold office.

TRUSTEES are three in number, elected annually, and have charge of the business of the society, and the election of new members.

MEETINGS are regularly held on the second Tuesday in August of each year, at Erie, Penna.

Much data of great value has been accumulated, and additional matter is being acquired. Members will be given preference and privileges as to the use of data, and circulation of published matter. Others will be afforded information on reasonable terms. Exchanges will be welcomed, and data and information available for the society's use will be gladly arranged for.

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### ANNUAL MEETING, AUGUST 11th, 1925.

At the annual meeting held in Erie, the following organization was effected for the ensuing year.

#### TRUSTEES:

Hon. Frederick Wells Blair, Girard, Pa.  
Dr. George Arthur Reed, of Erie, Pa.  
John Elmer Reed, Esq., Erie, Pa.

#### OFFICERS:

President, Hon. Frederick Wells Blair, Girard, Pa.;  
1st Vice President, Daniel P. Blair, Hagerstown, Md.;  
2nd Vice President, Henry Patterson Blair, Washington, D. C.;  
3rd Vice President, Albert Blair, St. Louis, Mo.;  
Corr. Secy. and Treas., Mrs. Claril Blair Blair, Mantua, O.;  
Recording Secretary, Robert Wallace Blair, Girard, Pa.;  
Genealogical Secretary, John Elmer Reed, Erie, Pa.

#### SEARCHERS:

Mrs. Effie Blair Wall, Joplin, Mo.;  
Mrs. Alice Blair Andrews, Orange, N. J.;  
Mr. Maurice R. Blair, Detroit, Michigan.

This meeting directed the printing of the By-laws, which has been done, and some of the copies have been distributed. The little booklets present a fine appearance, and afford desired information by the members and others.

The meeting also authorized the publication of an official bulletin, or magazine, to contain Blair Society news; Notes, Queries and Answers concerning Blair lineage; Notices of Meetings; and Genealogical Articles and Research Data pertinent to the work of the society. This number of the BLAIR MAGAZINE is the answer to that authorization; and although far from meeting the ambition of its editor, is at least a start for the goal of our members; and all are urged to contribute data, queries, answers, and other pertinent matter to be used in its pages. Each member is further urged to bring the work of this society to the attention of other persons who should be interested in its aims and purposes; and if the corresponding secretary is furnished with their names and addresses, she will be glad to supply them with data, blanks and other information. You are all urged to secure at least one new member this winter, and to prepare and submit any news of the Blair Family to the secretary for filing purposes.

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"The man who has not anything to boast of but his illustrious ancestors is like a potato—the only good belonging to him is underground."—Sir T. Overbury.

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"A health to you, a wealth to you,  
And the best that life can give to you.  
May Fortune still be kind to you,  
And Happiness be true to you,  
And Life be long and good to you,  
Is the toast of all your friends to you."

## OUR CHARTER MEMBERS

The following persons had the honor of subscribing to the Charter of the Society, and therefore becoming its Charter Members. To them is due the credit of arranging for the custody and preservation of the accumulated data left by Dr. Moore at the time of her death; of devising an organization and plan for its growth, and for the distribution of data made available by this collection, and of that which will be gathered in the future.

### Names of Charter Members.

### Addresses.

John Elmer Reed,	402 Masonic Temple, Erie, Pa.
Mrs. Claril Blair Blair	Box 325, W. High St., Mantua, Ohio.
Mrs. Effie Blair Wall	814½ W. 4th St., Joplin, Mo.
Maurice R. Blair	Union Trust Co., Detroit, Michigan.
Elston, A. Blair,	W. High St., Mantua, Ohio.
Owen E. Blair	W. High St., Mantua, Ohio.
Francis G. Blair	629 S. 2nd St., Springfield, Ill.
Albert Blair	5052 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Mo.
Joseph M. Blair	Caledonia, Ohio
John H. Blair	66 W. Queen St., Chambersburg, Pa.
Mrs. Martha Blair Borland	Box 75, Export, Pa.
Elizabeth Blair George	7932 Westmoreland Ave., Swissvale, Pa.
Mrs. Alice Blair Andrews	89 N. Walnut St., E. Orange, N. J.
David Jameson	N. Jefferson St., New Castle, Pa.
Miss Bobbie Blair Clack	R. 2, Abilene, Texas
Mrs. Nannie Blair Anderson	412 Penn Ave. Huntingdon, Pa.
Miss Julia Blair	Box 233, Galax, Virginia
Mr. N. A. Blair	215 Grant St., Akron, Ohio
Harry Blair Gill, Esq.	1917 Packard Bldg., Phila. Pa.
Mrs. Katherine Blair Owen	116 Park Ave., Struthers, Ohio
Dr. James Ross Reed	620 Calaveras St., Altadena, Calif.
Dr. George Arthur Reed	122 West 21st St., Erie, Pa.
Hon. Frederick Wells Blair	Girard, Pa.
Mr. Robert Wallace Blair	Girard, Pa.

—o—

### NEW MEMBERS ELECTED SINCE GRANT OF CHARTER:

Mr. David Blair—Active	Indiana, Penna.
Miss Mollie E. Palmer—Active	Craig, Mo.
Henry Patterson Blair—Active	Washington, D. C.
Mr. William A. Blair—Active	Winston-Salem, N. C.
Mr. Daniel Philip Blair—Active	Hagerstown, Md.
Mr. Charles B. Blair—Associate	Werren, Miss.
Rev. A. D. Tadlock—Associate	Winchester, Ky.
Rev. J. H. B. Hall—Associate	Birmingham, Ala.
Calvin C. Blair—Life	Beloit, Kansas

—o—

"Great families of yesterday we show,

And lords, whose parents were the Lord knows who."—DeFoe.

—o—

## SOME BLAIRS OF ULSTER PROVINCE, IRELAND

BLAIR, or Blare, means a plain, clear of woods, is of Celtic origin and a name of great antiquity in Scotland. The county Antrim (Ireland) family has a tradition that the family coat of arms was granted to one of that name by King Malcolm, of Scotland, in recognition of a most distinguished feat of arms in clearing the field of battle of the enemy; the word itself signifying "a cleared field." The family coat of arms is described in Johnston's Heraldry as "Arg., on a saltire with nine lozenges (or mascles) voided of the first," The crest A stag lodged, "and the shield surmounted with a helmet in profile with its vizor closed. The family motto of the Aghadowey Blairs was "Amo Probos," that of the Ayrshire and some other Blairs was "Virtute tutus."

Johnston's Heraldry informs us that the Scottish Blair shield was "Silver, on a black saltire nine silver mascles." The crest "A stag lodged proper."

The position, forms and colors of helmets surmounting the shields of family coats of arms, signify by their position, etc., the rank of the person to whom it was originally granted. Front view with six golden bars, is of a King; viewed in profile with four silver bars, is of Nobles; front view with vizor open, is of Baronets and Knights; viewed in profile with vizor closed is for Esquires and Gentlemen. That used by the Blairs is the latter.

Owing to the political and religious oppressions instituted by the English sovereigns and government, it became increasingly uncomfortable for the Blairs and many other Scottish families to remain in their Scottish home communities; and by reason of certain confiscations of lands in Ulster province, Ireland, by those English sovereigns, vast tracts of fine farming lands became available in that region about 1603, in the reign of King James. In 1612 he divided some millions of those same acres into small farms, and multitudes of English and Scotch people removed to Ulster and settled upon them. Amongst these was to be found a goodly number of Blairs from Argyshire, and other localities in Scotland, who settled in and about Londonderry ("Derry" as it has affectionately been termed), and in other parts of Ulster.

At the siege of "Derry", in 1689, a hazardous sortie was undertaken by the besieged—some of the foot soldiers having been commanded by Captain Thomas Blair, Lieutenant David Blair, and others. Lieutenant Colonel Blair was posted with his men in the ditches.

Not far from "Derry," is the beautiful little village of Aghadowey, in county Antrim, Ulster Province, lying upon the west side of the River Bann, not far from the Lough Foyle and the Giant's Causeway. It is in one of the most beautiful and fertile districts in the north of Ireland. Here many families of the name of Blair found settlement. At a little town called "The Vow," on the opposite side of the river, there were, in 1900, five families answering to that name.

In the "Derry" Cathedral yard there stands a stone erected to the memory of Thomas Blair, who died in 1696, at forty years of age. He died of wounds received in the siege of "Derry." Beside this stone is that of his widow, Mrs. Eliza Blair, who died in July, 1754, aged ninety-six years. Both these persons belonged to the village of Glendermot, about two miles south of "Derry," and would have been buried in their own home God's-Acre but for the pleas of the people of "Derry" that he be buried amongst his comrades who fought in the siege of that town in 1689.

Alexander Blair was an ancestor of this Thomas Blair, being a native of Scotland, coming to Glendermot about 1610, where he obtained a grant of land at a penny an acre. A brother of Alexander came at the same time. These claim to have come from Ayrshire, Scotland, and to have been related to the renowned Rev. Robert Blair, who came to Ireland much later, and who became pastor over the churches at Bangor and Irvine, in Ireland.

At Aghadowey was a James Blair whose wife was Rachel Boyd, as shown by her stone in that churchyard, erected by her husband. She died March 10, 1700, aged fifty-six years. Their son, Robert Blair, married Isabella Rankin, a daughter of David Rankin. David Rankin had come from Scotland to Aghadowey in 1685, and died there in 1750 aged eighty-four years. This Robert Blair is claimed to be the ancestor of the New England branch of the Blair Family. It is believed that he accompanied his brother, Abraham Blair, and his own sons, to New England, probably about 1718, as we find him in Rutland, Worcester Co., Mass. before 1720; for the records of Worcester tell us that he bought a farm of sixty-two acres there for sixty pounds from Joseph Hubbard on February 10, 1726. It was on the slope of a hill, and the "sills of his house were placed by compass, so that, when the sun turned on the west end they knew it was noon." This Robert Blair was a man of considerable public importance, serving in a variety of public capacities. December 14th, 1751, when he was about sixty-eight years of age, he assigned his holdings to his son Joseph Blair and in return Joseph was "to care for them (Robert and wife) in all ways." Robert married, probably in Aghadowey, Isabella Rankin, as above recited, and had 1. MATTHEW, b1704-5; 2. DAVID, b1708-9; 3. JOHN, b1710; 4. SARAH; 5. DOLLY; 6. WILLIAM, b1718; 7. JAMES; 8. ROBERT, b in Rutland, June 20, 1720; 9. ELIZABETH, b1724; 10. MARY, b April 1, 1725; 11. JOSEPH, b1727.

From the N. E. Hist. Gen. Reg., 1869:—"Died at Worcester, Mass. February 2, 1775 Mr. ROBERT BLAIR, a native of Ireland, aged 91 years. He left six sons, four daughters, eighty-seven grand-children, one hundred and six great grand-children, in all two hundred and nine living descendants." There is a slight variation in the date of his death as above given.



"The past at least is secure."—Daniel Webster.

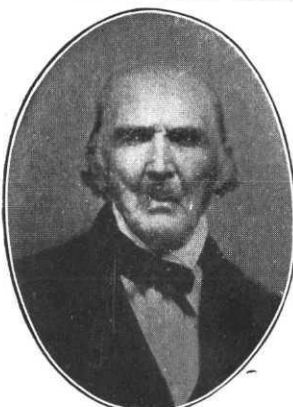
J. R. BLAIR, of Lair, Wheeler Co., Texas, furnishes the following:—

ROBERT BLAIR came to America from County Down with one brother, HUGH BLAIR, and a sister, JANE BLAIR who married a man named Robb and settled in the Panhandle of Virginia, now West Virginia. ROBERT BLAIR settled in York County, Pa., before the Revolutionary War. There he married JANE ALLISON. He was a Colonel in Washington's Army. Later he removed to Erie (?) County, Penna., and finally to Beaver Co., Pa., where he died. HUGH, his brother, settled in Erie (?) County, Pa. A Miss Dorothy Blair lives at Bradford, Pa. ROBERT BLAIR and JANE ALLISON had the following children: 1. WILLIAM BLAIR who had two sons, James Blair and Alexander Blair, living in York Co. Pa.; 2. GUIAN BLAIR, who lived and died near New Lisbon, Ohio, issue Rufus, Alexander, Mary, Jane, Lucy, Elizabeth. 3. JAMES BLAIR, who was twice married, born in 1799, first wife was Nancy Wallace who had issue, Robert Wallace Blair, James Allison Blair, William Blair, Guian Martin Blair, and John Blair. This JAMES married secondly Elizabeth Morrow, who had Alexander Blair, Samuel Farmer Blair, M. D., (who married a Miss. Reed), Rev. David Humphries Blair, Joseph Blair, Moses Morrow Blair, Elizabeth Jane Blair, and Luther Reed Blair. 4. ROBERT BLAIR, b1802, d1880, m. Martha Turner and had issue—Clement Valandingham Blair, Jane Elizabeth Blair, John Calvin Blair, Mary Letitia Blair. 5. JOSEPH BLAIR. 6. JANE BLAIR, m. William Turner. 7. ELIZABETH BLAIR, m. Martin. 8. ALEXANDER BLAIR issue Rufus L. Blair and Amanda Blair. 9. SAMUEL BLAIR, who started for New Orleans, and never afterwards heard from. 10. MARY BLAIR m William Martin.

As a coninciding confirmation for this data we have had a pceep at an old letter, written by Mr. James Blair, of Girard, Pa. to his nephew E. P. Blair of Ames, Iowa, in which he says: "I am sorry I can tell you but little about father's early history. David (his brother) is of the opinion he was born in York Co., but I am not sure. I think he was left an orphan when three years old; spent his early manhood in Fayette Co. this state; was a good reader and writer, and a tolerable good arithmetician, taught school some; came to Erie Co. in 1803 to see the country; went back; was married 27th December 1803; in 1804 moved out and spent the remainder of his days here. He had one brother and one sister both older, I think Robert lived in Beaver County, had a



Mary (Wallace) Blair  
1777 — 1873



James Blair  
1773-Girard, Pa.,-1855

large family of sons and daughters, their families are said to be scattered all over the country from Texas to California, have about lost track of them. His sister I think her name was Jane, am not sure, married a man by name of Robe, lived in Virginia, now West Virginia near Morgantown, had a large family. I think his father (i. e. our grandfather) was from Ireland. He moved his goods by water to Meadville and from there on a carriage made of 2 poles used as thills and pieces pinned across behind the horse, by a path through the woods. His goods consisted of 2 iron kettles and what they could carry in a large chest, the kettles and chest if you was here you could see yet. His land he tried to hold by settlement, but after buying another man's claim and paying taxes on four hundred acres for seven years was forced to buy or leave. He chose the former, bought on credit. I well recollect when he finished

paying for the first 100 acres. We had to live pretty close and bare till that was done. He died March 29, 1855 aged about 81 years and probably six months, his exact age we didn't know; was sick but a few days. His disease, inflammation of the lungs. Mother was born in Chester county, Pa., 1st day of March, 1780, moved when small to Fayette Co. She had two brothers and seven sisters, names WILLIAM (Wallace), ROBERT, JANE, RACHEL, ANNE, ELIZABETH, PHEBE, NANCY, and PERSIS. Mother's name was MARY (Wallace), was next the oldest, died June 9, 1873, after almost a year and a half of suffering and confinement to her bed, having fell and broke her thigh—having had as we supposed a stroke of paralysis. We are indebted largely to the care of our parents for what little education we have there not being any schools that we could attend.

(Signed) JAS. BLAIR.

—o—  
 "From yon blue heavens above us bent,  
 The gardener Adam and his wife  
 Smile at the claims of long descent."—Tennyson.  
 —o—

### REV. SAMUEL BLAIR

Born June 14th, 1712, Died July 5th, 1751. He came from Ulster, settled at Log College, Neshannong, Bucks Co., Pa. Was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Fagg's Manor, Londonderry, Chester Co., Pa. He had a son Samuel and eight daughters who married (1) Rev. Geo. Duffield; (2) David Rice of Kentucky; (3) John Carmichael of Brandywine Manor; (4) Wm. Foster of Upper Octorara. Rev. John Blair, brother to Samuel, was born in 1720 in Ulster. The Rev. Samuel Blair (born 1741), son of Rev. Samuel Blair, Sr., married a daughter of Dr. Wm. Shippen, of Philadelphia. The Rev. John D. Blair, Jr., son of Rev. John Blair above, was born at Fagg's Manor in 1759 and graduated from Princeton, dying in 1823.

#### "ELEGY UPON REV. SAMUEL BLAIR."

"Blair is no more" Then this poor world has lost  
 As rich a jewel as her stores could boast.  
 While hovering on the verge of life he lay  
 Eager for flight, and yet resigned to stay.  
 How oft did we in agonies of prayer  
 Wrestle with Heaven his sacred breath to spare!  
 But ah! His worth but cherished our despair  
 And threatened the denial of our prayer.

So great, so heavenly, so mature a mind  
 Required employment of a noble kind.  
 Too much refined in this dark world to bear  
 The humble place of Zion's minister,  
 Heaven called him to sustain some noble function there.

An intellect as clear as blaze of day,  
 Sedate as midnight, boundless as the sea,  
 Free as the wind, yet steady as the pole,  
 Passive to truth, impatient of control  
 From vulgar error, regular and smooth  
 As genuine reason and harmonious truth;  
 Truth linked to truth, and thought to thought conformed.

Spontaneous rose in his harmonious mind;  
 His rude, unstudied thoughts in order sprung  
 Expressed in equal order by his tongue.  
 Clusters of ripened sense on each young period hung.  
 His passions vigorous, yet by reason ruled,  
 By calmest reason kindled, tempered, cooled.

His heart reserved as prudence and confined,  
 And yet as truth sincere, as weeping friendship kind.  
 His life, a fixed unerring walk with God,  
 A constant progress in the Heavenly road.  
 His heart the rest of constant peace and love,  
 There glowed the passions seraphs feel above,  
 There, pleased and unmolested, dwelt the Heavenly dove.

His breath, like grateful incense, to the skies  
 Did daily in refined devotions rise;  
 His soul, excited by his praying breath  
 The almighty importunity of faith.  
 Hence guilty heads escape the falling blow,  
 And blessings to unworthy millions flow.  
 Nations partook the bounty of his prayer,  
 And future times the benefit shall share."

QUERY:—Who was the author of this elegy, and when and where was it written?

ROBERT BLAIR, author of "The Grave," was a son of the Rev. DAVID BLAIR of the Old Church in Edinburgh, and Euphemia Nisbit, daughter of Alex. Nisbit, Esq., of Carfin. He was born in Edinburgh in 1699. His grandfather was the Rev. ROBERT BLAIR of St. Andrews, who lived first at Irvine in Ayrshire, and was descended from the ancient house of Blair of that ilk, with their seat near Dalry, Ayrshire. He studied first at the University of Edinburgh, and then went to Holland. He came back and was licensed to preach in Edinburgh. He had some means which gave him leisure to study, and, being for some time an unemployed probationer, he devoted himself to natural history, and the cognate sciences, publishing at first only a few fugitive verses. In 1731 in his thirty-second year, he was appointed to the living of Athlestanford, a parish in East Lothian. During this period he was a correspondent of Doddridges and became a powerful preacher. He was well-off and lived on a footing with the gentry of the neighborhood. Among his intimates were Sir. Francis Kinloch, of Gilmerton, and John Callender of Craigforth. Blair was far from being the moody character which his poem "The Grave," might suggest that he was. He was a great lover of nature and wandered about with a microscope in his hand, examining fungi, etc. In 1738, he married his relation, Isabella Law, daughter of Mr. Law of Elvingston, who had been Prof. of Moral Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh. The issue of this marriage were five sons and one daughter; one of the sons (ROBERT) being afterwards the famous Lord President of the Court of Sessions, who died in 1811. (The other sons are not mentioned in this biography.)

Rev. Robert Blair began to arrange for the publication of "The Grave" in 1742. Isaac Watts was a friend of Blair's, and to him he forwarded the poem. Dr. Watts offered it to two booksellers, but both declined it. Blair then sent the manuscript to Philip Doddridge, who admired it very much. In 1743 it was published, being re-printed in 1747. The author died in 1746, only 47 years of age. His wife (who lived till 1774) and five children survived him. His body lies at Athelstanford without a monument, the grave being marked only "R. B." (From Notes by Rev. George Gilfillan in "Poetical Works of Beattie, Blair and Falconer," Published by Appleton & Co. 1854.)

"Johnnie Carnegie lais heer,  
 Descendit of Adam and Eve.  
 Gif ony con gang hieher,  
 Ise willing give him leve."—Scottish Epitaph on old stone.

### SPOTTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Three brothers, DAVID, ALEXANDER and JAMES M. BLAIR, (maybe others) and two sisters (maybe others), came from Angus (now Forfar) Scotland, to Virginia and settled in Spottsylvania County, (date not given) where they engaged in a mercantile business in connection with Isaac Hyslop "of Great Britain." David Blair is buried in the Old Masonic Cemetery at Fredericksburg, Va., where he lived and died. He was born in 1740 in Angus (Forfar) Scotland, and died in 1801 in Fredericksburg, Va. He married——and had DAVID BLAIR, Jr., JAMES BLAIR, MARGARET BLAIR, and ELIZABETH BLAIR.

Copied from the tombs of William Blair and his wife, Sarah Blair, a daughter of George Douglass, Esq., Lancaster:—

"Sacred to the memory of William Blair who departed this life July 2, 1794. Was born in the county Antrim, Ire., 24th of March, 1759. Came to America at the age of 13 years. Was a Revolutionary patriot and in the humble station of private soldier. He was in the battles of Hanging Rock, Eutaw, etc."



On the tomb of his wife;—

"To the memory of Mrs. Sarah Blair, wife of Wm. Blair and mother of Mary, James, Jane, Dorcas, George, Elizabeth and Wm. Blair.. She was born in this vicinity July 18th, 1763 and died the 9th hr. 1816, 17th day of September."

### SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In going over the mass of papers from the files of Dr. Moore, we find most of it without verification. Many charts, lists of marriages, births, deaths, removals, "Notes" made in her own hand in voluminous quantities, but without references as to its sources or authenticity. No doubt she was fully informed about its sources, and satisfied as to its verity; but the Blair Society will demand of its Genealogical Secretary some evidence of the data he furnishes and files being authentic.

To this end he will gladly welcome any and all verified copies of records from FAMILY BIBLES, FAMILY RECORDS, OBITUARIES, PICTURES OF PLACES AND PERSONS, WRITE-UPS of BLAIRS and of BLAIR DOINGS, ARTICLES, BOOKS and other publications written by Blairs, FAMILY TREES of Blairs, and any and all other forms of "Blairiana" available. In every case, however, such information or copies, to be fully useful, should come to him signed and certified for what it is, and from whence it came, with dates, etc. for reference.

LOANS of data are also desired, and will be faithfully cared for and be promptly returned, if requested. Please indicate whether it is for the files of the society, or sent as a temporary loan to it.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES of persons of Blair connection who might be interested in the work of the society, are earnestly solicited.

Each branch of the Blair Family is invited to submit so much of their genealogical line as they can, with the sources from which it has been derived, and the reasons for believing it to be correct. If all co-operate in this labor of love, we shall very soon have a depository of data which will serve greatly to perpetuate the memory of our ancestors, to whom we owe our being, our sturdy and honest characters, and our devotion to church and state.

Will you who reads this at once submit what you have, and try for at least one new member before the next number of the magazine is issued? We thank you on behalf of the society.

"God could not be here Himself, so He just left on this earth the greatest agency for good—Mother. Mother—the one earthly mirror of immortal love. Mother—the most refining ennobling influence in all the world."

Many Blairs and other descendants of pioneer families, have wished to know where "Guinston Church" and its old burying ground is. Rev. Clark, of York county, writes us that it is a U. P. Church, located a little ways north of Muddy Creek Forks, and is still functioning.

A splendid general work upon the times, people, troubles, and conditions of the Scotch people (the "Scotch-Irish People" so-called) in their removal from Scotland to Ulster, their lives there and the causes which led to their emigration to America, is Charles A. Hanna's "Scotch-Irish or The Scot in North Britain, North Ireland, and North America," in two volumes, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1902.

"Backward, flow backward, O tide of the years!

I am so weary of toil and of tears,—

Toil without recompense, tears all in vain,—

Take them and give me my childhood again!"—From "Rock Me To Sleep."

It is planned to publish this magazine once each six months. The secretary will endeavor to have the material ready for the next publication on May first next. All who wish to obtain a copy should advise the secretary before January 1st, with the subscription price of \$1.00, to insure receiving it and the next succeeding number in November 1926.

Persons who have, or can furnish, cuts and illustrations; copies of genealogical data suitable for cuts; photos of ancestry, and ancestral places; photos of ancient documents and records; photos of heirlooms of undoubted authenticity; or other matters suitable for publishing in the Blair Magazine, are urged to have them prepared and sent us promptly with the data concerning them. Likewise, genealogical articles of merit and authenticity, properly vouched for by the senders, are earnestly desired.

### THE BLAIRS OF BLAIRMOUNT

(The Larne Register, Saturday, September 6th, 1884.)

"It is very likely that many of our readers have never heard of the family whose name appears at the head of this paper and do not know where Blairmount is, or rather was. We may state then, that Blairmount was situated in Killyglen, in the parish of Cairncastle, on the farm which is now occupied by Thomas McNeill. It comprised originally a Mansion House with suitable offices, a garden and a demesne of about eighty acres. Connected with the Mansion House was a considerable landed property which was known as the Blairmount Estate. This Estate, when fully developed, consisted of the townlands of Drains, Dromaine, Knocknowan and two-thirds of Loughduff and Killyglen. In other words, the Blairmount Estate extended continuously inland, for a considerable breadth from the water-edge at Drain's Bay to Loughduff both inclusive and within its boundaries was some of the richest pasture land in the county.

"The Blairs of Blairmount occupied, in their day, a good social position, and were connected by marriage with some of the most respectable families in this neighborhood, including especially the Agnews of Kilwaughter and the Shaws of Ballygally. They were, as their name indicates, of Scottish extraction; and the first of the family who came to Ireland was doubtless one of the Scottish Presbyterian settlers who, in the beginning of the 17th century, took up their abode in the province under the special protection of King James I. to carry out that monarch's favorite and fortunate scheme for the plantation of Ulster. In 1615, a Mr. James Blair was granted letters of naturalization in Ireland. In 1654, a Mr. John Blair, then living in Larne, acted as agent for Sir. Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw, who, at that time held lands in Kilwaughter under the Earl of Antrim. But whether either, or both, of these gentlemen belonged to the same family as the Blairs of Blairmount, we do not know.

"The first Blair of Blairmount and the person from whom the place and property took this name, was known as Major James Blair. He was in the City of Derry when that place was besieged in 1689, and was an officer in the garrison which then held that last stronghold of the Protestants of Ulster against the army of King James. This fact is stated by a tradition of very ancient standing. It is also conclusively established by a passage in the will of Major Blair's son, William Henry Blair, who therein speaks of "the Derry and English arrears due to his father as settled by King and Parliament." These "Derry arrears" can have been nothing else than the money which was due to Major Blair for his military services in Derry at the time of the siege, and which in 1773—the date of his son's will—were unpaid. Under these circumstances there can be no doubt that our Major James Blair of Blairmount is the person spoken of in the following lines from an old poem on the siege of Derry, when the writer, after describing a successful sally made by the garrison upon the besiegers, says:

"When they the Irish Foot had soundly beat,  
And caused them all into their camp retreat,  
Brave Major Blair the enemies' fire sustained  
And with great feats a reputation gained."

"After the relief of Derry, Major James Blair came to this part of County Antrim, from which we may perhaps infer that he had been born somewhere in the neighborhood. He is said to have stopped a considerable time at Glenarm Castle with the Lord Antrim of those days. What connection he had with Lord Antrim which induced him to pay his lordship this lengthened visit we have not heard. But the circumstance is remarkable, for certainly at the siege of Derry Major Blair and his noble host were on opposite sides.

"When Major Blair left Glenarm Castle and set up a house for himself (which probably was on occasion of his marriage) his first settlement was at St. Cumming in the Parish of Cairncastle. This was apparently towards the close of the 17th century. But he did not stay long at St. Cumming. About the year 1700, he removed to Killyglen, where he purchased from the families called Stewart and Beggs their interest in a tract of land in that locality. This was the beginning of the Blairmount Estate. But Major Blair shortly afterwards made a great addition to the lands which he had acquired in Killyglen. This he did through the favor of the Earl of Antrim; for on Sept. 9, 1706, that nobleman" demised to James Blair of St. Cumming, but then last of Killyglen, otherwise Blairmount, in the County of Antrim, gentleman, all that part of the townlands of Drains, Dromaine, Knocknowan, the two-thirds of Loughduff and Killyglen with appurtenances for 31 years from November 1, 1706, at a rent of twenty pounds per annum with sixpence in the pound receiver's fees." In addition to this valuable leasehold property, Major Blair had a mortgage for apparently about five hundred pounds on that part of the estate of the Earl of Donegall which was situated at Ballyclare.

"Major Blair was twice married. His first wife was Charlotte Moore, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Moore, Rector of Killead, who is said to have been connected with the Moores, Earls of Drogheda. By this lady Major Blair does not seem to have had any family, at least we have never heard of any. But by his second wife, who was Elizabeth Shaw, of Ballygally, he had three sons, William Henry (who succeeded him), James and Colin; and three daughters, Elizabeth, Eleanor and Dorothy. His eldest daughter (Elizabeth) married Mr. William Ogilvie of Ballylorn, eldest son of Rev. W. Ogilvie, minister of the Old Presbyterian Congregation of Larne and Kilwaughter.

"Major James Blair lived for about thirty years in the Mansion House of Blairmount and there he died in 1731. The date of his interment is fixed by an entry in the funeral register of the Old Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast, from which we learn that the funeral of "Major Blair living at Cairncastle" took place on August 3, 1731; and that, on that occasion, the best mor-cloths and six mourning cloths for the hire of which 22s were charged, were made use of. By his will, dated May 2, 1726, Major Blair left the lands which had been demised to him by Lord Antrim, to his widow, Elizabeth Blair, or Shaw, for her life; and at her death to his eldest son, William Henry Blair. To his other children he left pecuniary legacies payable out of the mortgage which he held on the lands of Lord Donegall.

"Major's Blair's widow did not long enjoy the Blairmount property in which she was thus left a life interest. She died about nine months after her husband, as we learn from another entry in the Belfast Funeral Register, which tells us that "Mrs. Blair living at Cairncastle" was interred on May 22, 1732, and that at her funeral the best mor-cloth with twelve mourning cloaks (twice as many as had been at her husband's funeral) were put in requisition for the hire of which thirty-two shillings were charged.

"On the death of his mother in May 1732, William Henry Blair succeeded agreeably to his father's will to his interest in the lands of Drains, Dromaine, Knocknowan, Killyglen and Loughduff. That interest it will be remembered was only for a term of 31 years, and of those years 26 had expired. But even on this limited tenure, William Henry Blair did not hesitate to take unto himself a wife. Only two months after he came into possession of Blairmount he married Jane Agnew, daughter of Patrick Agnew of Kilwaughter (the second of that name) and sister of William Agnew commonly called "The Old Squire." The settlement which was made preparatory to his marriage is dated July 18, 1732. By it William Henry Blair vested in the hands of trustees (one of whom was the bride's brother, William Agnew) for the benefit of his future wife, Jane Agnew, and her children by him (if any) not only the existing lease of the lands which he then held but any renewal or renewals that might afterwards be made of that lease, and for the fulfilment of this and other engagements he gave the trustees of the settlement his bond for two thousand pounds. His first wife, Jane Agnew, did not live long. She died three years after her marriage, leaving one son called James and one daughter called Martha.

"Two years after the death of his first wife, viz. on April 20, 1737, William Henry Blair obtained from Lord Antrim a lease for lives renewable forever of the lands of Killyglen and Loughduff, which with other lands had been demised to his father in 1706 for 31 years. For these lands he was to pay a rent of ten pounds a year and six pence in the pound receiver's fees. At the same time he also got from the same nobleman a new lease for 31 years of the lands of Drains and Dromaine at a rent of 60 pounds per year and 6d. in the pound for receiver's fees. The reader will observe that the lease of 1706 which was for 31 years would have expired in November, 1737, a few months after the dates of the above new leases. It will also be seen that whilst the new lease of Killyglen was for lives renewable forever, the new lease of Drains and Dromaine, which was got at the same time, was only for 31 years. But in the course of a short time William Henry Blair got Drains and Dromaine put in this respect on the same footing as the lands which he then held in Killyglen. Only eight years after the granting of the new lease of Drains and Dromaine, viz. in August, 1745, he surrendered that lease and in lieu of it got from Lord Antrim a lease for lives renewable forever of the same lands at the same rent and fees as had been named in the determinable lease. By this step the Blairmount Estate was finally consolidated and its various portions comprising Loughduff, Killyglen, Drains, Dromaine and Knocknowan, were put on the same footing as to tenure—that tenure being for lives renewable forever.

"The reason why William Henry Blair got his property at the time so arranged was that he might be able to make a suitable settlement upon a second wife whom he married in 1745. This second wife was Letitia Shaw of Ballygally. That lady had a fortune of one thousand pounds chargeable on the estate of William Hamilton, Esq., in the county of Tyrone. She had also another sum (the amount of which we have not seen stated, but it exceeded two hundred pounds) chargeable on the Ballygally estate. Such fortune on the part of the lady required William Henry Blair to make a corresponding settlement upon her, and it was to enable him to do so that he got from Lord Antrim a lease for lives renewable forever of the lands of Drains and Dromaine which he had hitherto held by a determinable lease for thirty one years.

"Shortly after William Henry Blair's second marriage, William Agnew of Kilwaughter, who was then the sole surviving trustee of that gentleman's marriage settlement with his wife (Jane Agnew) entered judgment on the bond for two thousand pounds which in that settlement Mr. Blair had given for the fulfilment of the engagements therein contained. One of these engagements it will be remembered, was that he settled upon his first wife, Jane Agnew, and her children by him, not only the determinable leases which he then held of his land, but renewal or renewals which might at any time be got of that lease. When, therefore, William Henry Blair took to himself a second wife and had consequently the prospect of a second family for whom he would naturally be anxious to provide, Mr. Agnew seems to have thought that it was his duty to take care that his provision should not be made out of the property which had been settled upon his first wife, who was William Agnew's sister. In the case of William Henry Blair's second wife, this contingency did not arise, for this lady, who died in 1757, had no family; but it did arise in the case of his third wife, who had several children."



SOME ERIE COUNTY, PA., BLAIRS, AUG. 15th, 1925.

Left to right:—Front row, J. E. Reed, Gen. Sec.; Robert W. Blair, Rec. Sec.; Dr. J. Ross Reed, Pasadena, Cal; Next row: two little girls, then Hon. Fred. W. Blair, President, and his mother; behind the president, Dr. G. A. Reed, trustee,, in gray suit with long tie.

"This third wife of William Henry Blair of Blairmount was Charity Jones of Glenarm. She was, we believe, the daughter of Alexander Jones, a Revenue Officer of that town. She and William Henry Blair were married in 1760, and by the marriage settlement, which is dated on the 16th of November of that year, a jointure of twenty pounds a year payable out of the lands of Drains and Dromaine was secured to the lady. At the time of his third marriage, William Henry Blair was (according to a statement made by his third wife), "about 60 years of age and greatly impaired in health" whilst the lady herself (also according to her own account) was "a young woman not about forty years of age."

"Not long after his marriage to Charity Jones viz.: on July 22, 1765, William Henry Blair, in consideration of the sum of 250 pounds gave to his wife's brother-in-law, Mr. Edward Threlfell, a mortgage on his lands in Drains, Dromaine, and Loughduff, and at the same time handed over to that gentleman the lease renewable forever for Drains and Dromaine which he had got from Lord Antrim in 1745. Mr. Blair not having paid this money or redeemed the lands, Mr. Threlfell entered into possession of the same and received the rents of Drains and Dromaine up to the time of William Henry Blair's death, when a considerable sum was said to be still due on foot of the mortgage. Mr. Threlfell's agent in this matter was the Rev. John Lewson, Presbyterian minister of Cairncastle to whom the rents of Drains and Dromaine were thus paid for many years. On the whole, William Henry Blair cannot be said to have managed his property well during the time that he was the nominal owner. Between the years 1753 and 1775 (in which latter year he died) he granted to the tenants of some of the best farms on his estate, leases of their holdings for lives renewable forever at very low rents. Among the tenants who were thus practically made owners of their farms were James Loughridge, Archibald Tweed, James Dale, Wm. Sheriff, Charles Ferris, William Workman, Robert Craig, Robert Callwell, and Daniel Peden.

"After this, we are not surprised to hear that at the time of William Henry Blair's death in 1775, the annual rents payable to his estate out of the lands of Drains and Dromaine, amounted only to 58 pounds. 3. 3. Shortly before his death, Mr. Blair gave Archibald Tweed of Dromaine a lease "for seven years of the house, garden and part of the farm of Killyglen, then in his own immediate occupation and possession, with a right of sufficient moss (?) at a rent of thirty shillings a year in trust for the benefit of his wife, Charity Blair and children in case she should survive her husband."

"William Henry Blair died at Blairmount in August, 1775. By his first wife—Jane Agnew, he left two children, James and Martha. By his second wife, Letitia Shaw, he had no family. By his third wife, Charity Jones, who survived him he left only one son, William Henry (Jr.) and two daughters, Catherine Rachel Elizabeth and Helen. By Charity Jones, he had another son who was called Alexander, apparently after his mother's father. This was the eldest of Charity Jones' children, but he had died before his father.



Pioneer Ten Plate Stove



"William Henry Blair appears to have been an officer in the local regiment of militia, for he was sometimes styled "Captain Blair." He is also said to have been agent to the Earl of Antrim for a short time before the appointment of Nicholas Stewart to that office. In religious profession, William Henry Blair was a Presbyterian. He was a member of the old Presbyterian congregation of Cairncastle, which he often represented as Commissioner of Presbyterian visitations. He was also a trustee in the lease of the Cairncastle Meeting-house and in most of his own leases he bound his tenants (as was not unusual with Presbyterian landlords in those days), to pay yearly a specified pecuniary stipend and perform certain other specified duties to "the Protestant Dissenting Minister of Cairncastle."

After the death of William Henry Blair in 1775, his widow, Charity Jones, continued to live sometime at Blairmount. This she did partly in consequence of a clause in her late husband's will which directed that she be allowed to do so for six months after his death; and partly because her step-son, James Blair, to whom the house of Blairmount was left, had married, during his father's lifetime, and, having taken up house use elsewhere, did not require Blairmount as a residence. He therefore allowed his step-mother to continue in it for a considerable time after the expiration of the six months which had been allowed her by her husband.

"James Blair, the son of William Henry Blair, by Jane Agnew, his first wife, was about 43 years of age when his father died. Some time previous to that event, he had married Elizabeth Stenhouse (or stennus), the eldest daughter of a Mr. James Stenhouse (then deceased) who had lived in Larne in the house at the foot of the town which was so long occupied by the late Mr. Patrick Agnew. By his will, Mr. Stenhouse had left his interest in this house and his other property to his widow and his four daughters in five equal shares. One of these daughters having afterwards married James Blair, that gentleman, in the right of his wife, became entitled to one of these five shares and having presumably made an arrangement with the owners of the other four shares, he had become the tenant of this house (in Larne) which he continued to occupy so long as he lived. He did not long survive his father. He died two years after him, viz. in 1777. He was therefore only for a short time in possession of his paternal property. And even in that short time he did not come into possession of all the property to which he was entitled. His father by a will made two years before his death, had left him that part of the Blairmount estate which comprised the Mansion House, and lands in Killyglen with part of mountain and also apparently Loughduff. But the lands of Drains and Dromaine (burdened with a jointure of 25 pounds a year to his widow and pecuniary legacies to Charity Jones's two daughters) he left to his surviving son by Charity Jones, who was also his namesake, William Henry Blair.

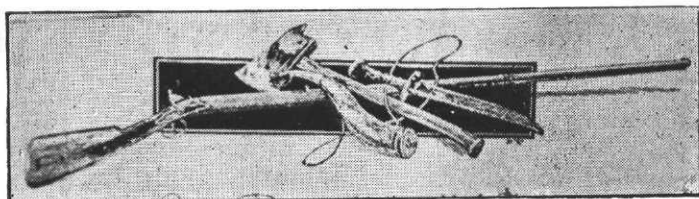
"Now the reader will remember that William Henry Blair, the elder, previously to his marriage with his first wife, Jane Agnew, had settled upon that lady and her children, not only the lease which he then had of his lands, including Drains and Dromaine, but any renewal or renewals that he might ever get of that lease. Clearly, therefore, according to this settlement, Jane Agnew's children, James and Martha Blair, were entitled to all their father's interest in the renewed leases of 1737 and 1745 which comprised the entire Blairmount estate, and their father had no right to will any portion of that estate to his other children by another wife. Accordingly, soon after their father's death, viz. on February. 24th, 1776, James and Martha Blair, the children of Jane Agnew, commenced a suit at law against the executors of their father's will, who acting on that will, had kept possession of Drains and Dromaine for the benefit of Charity Jones's children. This will, the Plaintiff alleged, contravened their mother's marriage settlement, inasmuch as it sought to alienate from them a considerable portion of their father's estate, all of which had been by that settlement settled upon them. They therefore prayed that settlement might be maintained in opposition to their father's will and that they might be put in possession of their father's entire estate, including Drains and Dromaine to which under that settlement they were entitled but which their father, by his will, had endeavored to take from them. In the following year, 1777, this suit lapsed by the death of one of the plaintiffs, James Blair, but it was shortly afterwards renewed in the names of James Blair's sister Martha, who had married William Shaw of Ballygally, and of the children of James Blair deceased. On June 17, 1782, the case was issued by an order of the Court which declared that the plaintiffs i. e. the representatives of Jane Agnew, the first wife of William Henry Blair, were entitled to the specific execution of that lady's marriage settlement and therefore, to the possession and enjoyment of the lands of Loughduff, Killyglen, Drains and Dromore, with mountain thereunto belonging, as held by the lease of Major Blair of 1706 and the several renewals thereof; all which leases and renewals the defendants were ordered to hand over to the plaintiffs on being paid 100 pounds for each of Charity Jones's three children and a jointure of 20 pounds a year to Charity Jones herself as

fixed by her marriage settlement with William Henry Blair in 1760. After this decision, William Henry Blair, the younger (son of Charity Jones) being thereby cut out of any part of his father's estate, left his country for America and we believe was never heard of more. Of the subsequent history of his mother and sisters, we know nothing.

"James Blair, the son of Wm. Henry Blair, the elder, (by Jane Agnew) had died, as we have said, in 1777, i. e., five years before the law-suit was ended. By his wife Elizabeth Stenhouse, who predeceased him, he had no son. But he had four daughters who survived him. To these four daughters, who were very young at the time of their father's death, he bequeathed (by the medium of trustees) all his estate real and personal, including the Blairmount Estate, share and share alike. In the course of time, all these daughters married. Their names were Jane, Anne, Elizabeth and Mary Helen. Jane married John Armstrong of the City of Dublin; Anne married Michael Sampson whose history we do not know; Elizabeth married Charles McKeganey, a Custom-house officer in Larne; and Mary Helen married Jackson of Larne, surgeon. These four gentlemen in right of their wives became entitled, under the will of James Blair, to equal shares of the Blairmount estate. But none of them held their shares for any length of time. Sooner or later, they all sold their several portions to different people. We believe the Blairmount estate was thus scattered. John Armstrong, of Dublin, who had married James Blair's eldest daughter, Jane, became insolvent and his part of the Blairmount estate being sold by his creditors, was bought by George Hill, of Larne.

"Michael Sampson who had married James Blair's second daughter, Anne, sold his share to Sir Francis McWaugter and the Richardsons from whom it was afterwards purchased by Messrs. James and Lambert Blair, who were no relations, or only very distant relations to the Blairs of Blairmount, but who, having made fortunes in Demarara, are said to have bought part of the Blairmount property, "for sake of the name." Charles McKeganey who married James Blair's third daughter, Elizabeth, did not himself sell his share of Blairmount, but after his death, it was sold by his two daughters, Elizabeth Blair McKeganey and Susannah Moore McKeganey who married respectively Thomas Wilson and Archibald Currie, both of Greenock. This portion of the Blairmount estate went partly to George Hill of Larne, and partly to the Demarara Blairs. William Jackson of Larne, surgeon, did not himself sell his share of the Blairmount Estate, but after his death, it was sold by his daughter, Anne Jackson, to the late Wm. Hamilton Burke, Captain of the Kite Revenue Cruiser, whose son, Mr. W. H. BURKE, still holds it.

"This accounts (we believe pretty completely) for that part of the Blairmount Estate which had gone to the children of James Blair, the son of Jane Agnew. Another part of that property had gone to Jane Agnew's daughter, Martha Blair, who had married William Shaw of Ballygally, then deceased. This lady, for the sum of seven hundred pounds, sold a moiety of her portion of the Blairmount estate to Samuel Allen of Millbrook, from whom the tenants in occupation afterwards purchased their several farms. The remainder of Mrs. Shaw's portion which was not thus alienated by that lady, was afterwards sold also we believe to the tenants) by her son, Henry Shaw, to raise money wherewith to carry on his law-suit with Doctor McCullough for the recovery of the Ballygally Estate. The last mention we have seen of Blairmount, is as the residence of a Mr. John Howe, who had married a sister of James Blair's wife (Stenhouse?) and who in a legal document of 1813 signs his name as John Howe of Blairmount." Thus vanished the house and lands of the Blairs of Blairmount."



Pioneer Tools

## WHO ARE THE SCOTCH-IRISH

This term has grown up in America until many people may be pardoned for believing that the Scotch-Irish are a distinct race of people—just as distinct a class as is the English, the French, or the Japanese. It is time however that those of us who profess to belong to that class of American citizens should assert our origin, and stand upon the records of our history.

The people who are so-called, are known by various terms in other parts of the world. In Britain they are called "The Ulsterman"; in Ireland "The sturdy Northern" or mayhap "The black Northern" or the "Orangeman."

The sovereigns of England had for many years endeavored to subdue the Irish people to their dominion, with little, if any apparent success. Edict after edict had failed to accomplish this. At length the plan of colonization was resorted to, and many colonists from England and Scotland were encouraged to enter northern Ireland, and found homes in counties Down and Antrim. The English power was used for their protection, and little by little the character of some communities became changed from Irish to Scotch and English.

The change was, however, too slow for the ambitious English crown, and larger forces of the military were later sent into the northern portions of Ireland to enforce the orders, laws and edicts of England. In various ways the lands of the Irish were forfeited, escheated to the crown of England, and at length several millions of good Irish acres, with their huts and homes had been separated from the original Irish ownership. Some of the finest farming lands in Ireland were embraced in this forfeiture, and by 1603, King James found that he had acquired supreme lordship over a vast domain. The Irish owners had been forcibly evicted from the lands where they and their ancestors had lived for generations. Their crime being that they were unable to love and support the king of a people who lived on the other side of the Irish Sea.

King James then commenced a campaign whereby wholesale migration occurred from both England and Scotland into northern Ireland, which persisted for a period of some hundred years, until the former homes and home-lands of the Irish people of Ulster had become occupied by the stranger immigrants.

This immigration has become popularly known as "King James Plantation of Ulster Province." Between the newcomers and the soldiers of King James, the poor Irish peasants were forced from their homes and lands and the strangers took their places. The Irish would not wholly leave the province, but wandered about, living like the wild beasts, in caves and hollows of the earth, and hiding as best they could from the inclemencies of the weather, as well as from searching eyes of the King's soldiers. How these people succeeded in making a living is hard to understand. It is known that they were often reduced to such straits that they killed and devoured the cattle of their enemies, as well as an occasional child who had wandered from the protection of the "clachan" where were the homes of his people.

Notwithstanding the fierce opposition of the Irish people, our Scotch and English intruders became prosperous, and the Scotch settlers were happy.

One extensive forfeiture to the English crown came about in this way:

One of the cadets of the great Irish family of O'Neill, Con McNeale McBryan Feartagh O'Neill to be exact, lived in the old McNeill mansion two or three miles out of Carrickfergus Castle (now Belfast) early in the seventeenth century, and was the acknowledged lord or chieftan of the whole north half of County Down, known as the "Upper Clannaboye Country". His was no doubt a rough and boisterous life, albeit accompanied with chivalry and hospitality of a sort. Wines and good food played an essential part in his comfort and in his hospitality. And so it came to pass when he was pleasuring himself and some of his friends of an evening toward the end of the year 1602, that he discovered to his dismay that the stock of wine was running low. As he had a fresh supply lately ordered from Spain lying near by in Belfast, he sent his doughty retainers over to the port to fetch it, overlooking the incident of its detention there by orders of the Queen's Excise Officer until certain taxes and duties on it had been first discharged by Con the O'Neill for the better support of the English Queen. However Con's relations to the English Queen were of an extremely dim and visionary nature, and as he had been more accustomed to the receipt of customs than to their payment, both he and his men were at a loss as to why he should be prevented from using his own property in his own way. Arguments in those days were usually abrupt and forcible, and so were these. Con sent a goodly force to the port with orders to bring home the wine. The fray that took place caused the killing of one of the English soldiers, and the O'Neil was accused of levying war against the queen of England, arrested and promptly lodged in the castle of Carrickfergus. It was proposed to

hang him out of hand; but his wife communicated with a friend, Hugh Montgomery, Laird of Braidstane, in Ayrshire, who so interested himself in Con's case (in consideration of a cession to himself of one-half of Con's lands in County Down,) that through the good offices of his relative, Thomas Montgomery, a sloop owner, the latter earnestly made love to the daughter of the prison keeper, and a very ingenious plan was successfully carried out whereby Con escaped. By a further cession to Montgomery of half his lands in Clannaboye, and a further cession to Montgomery's friend, James Hamilton, a pardon was obtained for Con. Eventually poor Con run through the remainder of his lands also. These lands were later "planted" by Montgomery and Hamilton with good, sturdy Scotch people from the Lowlands of Scotland, who brought with them their sturdy ways, religious faith, thrifty and frugal habits, and independent purposes. Other districts were forfeited in similar, and other ways, and became populated with the same type of conscientious and thrifty people, excluding more and more the native Irish who had lived there before them. Some of those who migrated were Geo. Wallace, Hugh Wallace, Thomas Wallace, William Wallace, and Widow Wallace, who held under grants from Hamilton. The "Great Plantation of Ulster" was an event however, which threw that of Down and Antrim well into the shade. It was so much more extensive, so much better planned and carried out, and resulted so successfully, that it has become one of the great events of history. Thousands upon thousands of good, sturdy Scotch settlers entered Ulster between the years 1610 and 1630. They became permanent settlers, and under their labors the country soon came to be prosperous, and the people happy and well-to-do.

In Stewart's History of the Church of Ireland we learn that "Mr. Robert Blair, who was a star of the first magnitude and appeared eminent in the Lord's work before the rest came, was from being Professor of Philosophy in Glasgow, invited hither by Sir James Hamilton, and embraced the charge of Bangor by whose means also not only was his neighbor, Mr. Robert Cunningham, like another Apostle, instructed in the way of God more perfectly, but his spiritual wisdom and learning was a great ornament and help to the beginnings of this church."

From an account of Sir William Brereton's travels we take the following:

"We lodged in Glasgow, in Mr. David Weymes' house; his wife's name is Margaret Campbell (the wives in Scotland do not change but always retain, their own names). I came from Glasgow about eight hours, and came to Erwin about twelve hours, which is sixteen miles. We passed through a barren and poor country, and most of it yielding neither corn nor grass, and that which yields corn is very poor, much punished with drought. We came to Mr. JAMES BLARE'S in Erwin, a well affected man, who informed me of that which is much to be admired; above ten thousand persons have within two years last past left the country wherein they lived, which was betwixt Aberdeen and Ennerness, and are gone to Ireland; they have come by one hundred in company through this town, and three hundred have gone hence together shipped for Ireland at one tide none of them can give a reason why they leave the country, only some of them who made a better use of God's hand upon them, have acknowledged to mine host in these words: "that it was a just judgment of God to spew them out of the land for their unthankfulness."

Before the reign of Queen Elizabeth the Scottish people as a whole were hardy, but extremely ignorant, and crude in their habits of life. The Reformation under John Knox was an epoch in the history of the nation. This event had a wonderful effect upon the inhabitants. Through them the whole course of the World's history became changed. The Scots became a nation of iron men capable of asserting themselves and insisting upon their principles. Up to this time they had been a changeable and vacillating people. Out of the Reformation they came as a vital world force. A system of education was provided for them. An ignorant people became a race having lofty ideals and a purposeful life. When they removed to Ulster, a new kind of settler had come to cope with the Irish. The English settlers became dissolved in the Irish population; but the Scot loathed the Irish as he did the Devil himself. This feeling was heartily reciprocated by the natives. Much bitterness and strife ensued between the two races. This arose not alone because of their differences of religion, but because of their essential difference ethnologically. They were a different race of people, and so definite was this difference, and so persistently was it maintained, that it was indeed a rare case when a marriage occurred between the two peoples. Consequently the Scot in Ulster remained as much a Scot as did his brethren in Scotland itself. His communities were essentially Scotch, and habits and customs brought from Scotland became indigenous in Ireland. A traveller through Ulster would have found the people, the language, the customs, the religion and other matters similar to Scottish communities in Scotland. The Celt in Ulster therefore remained a thoroughbred Celt, and the Scot continued to be of unadulterated Scotch blood during his residence there. And the final word in the appellation of the Scotch-Irish concerns merely their residence in Ireland.